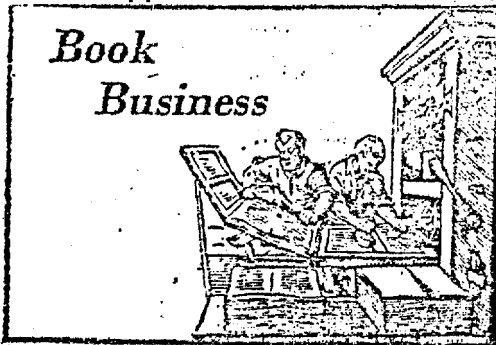


Book Business



By JOYCE ILLIG

Company Man

PHILIP AGEE, the ex-CIA agent living in England, has finally found a publisher and filmmaker to get his book *Inside the Company: CIA Diary* out to the American public. Stonehill Publishing Company will publish the book and Emile de Antonio has purchased the film rights.

Stonehill, a small, relatively unknown New York trade house distributed by George Braziller & Co., signed a contract with Scott Meredith, Agee's literary agent, giving Agee essentially the same deal he'd turned down with Straight Arrow Books: a \$12,000 advance and a 60-40 split on the paperback sale.

Stonehill is a four-year-old company run by Jeffrey Steinberg. Steinberg is young (late 20s), enthusiastic and persistent. He was a founder of Chelsea House publishers and was hired in 1970 by Jann Wenner to start Straight Arrow Books with Alan Rinzler. He said that he didn't last long because of personality differences with Wenner. Steinberg started Stonehill and is backed by "a consortium of European bankers."

Stonehill's current schedule for Agee's book is to ship a first printing of 30,000 copies in June for July publication. The probable price: \$12.95. Steinberg is also planning to add an index for the American edition.

"We're going to hold off on the mass market paperback sale until we've completed our legal review and can deliver a reasonably meaningful warranty," said Steinberg.

The American Civil Liberties Union has given Steinberg a letter "agreeing to provide as much legal assistance, at no cost, as we warrant." This is in case all the rumors become fact concerning government suppression of the book here and threats of libel suits.

"There will definitely be a libel and invasion of privacy review by our law firm," said Steinberg, "and there will probably

be a minor number of changes in the manuscript, but I don't think we'll have trouble with Agee on them."

Scott Meredith said that Agee is prepared to warrant very little because he has no money. "In the book deal as well as the movie deal, the only warranty that Agee is providing is the warranty that he has the right to sell these rights and that the government doesn't own them," said Meredith.

Stonehill's biggest seller is a recently published book called *The Cocaine Papers*. It's a \$12.95 volume documenting Freud's use of cocaine.

Emile de Antonio, the underground Marxist filmmaker, plans to make a fiction film of Agee's book, using different names for everyone except the author.

De Antonio, creator of the controversial and highly praised documentaries "Point of Order" (the Army-McCarthy hearings), "In the Year of the Pig" (an overview of the Vietnam war) and "Millhouse" (a satiric look at Nixon), has agreed to pay \$25,000 dollars against five per cent of the profits—the producer's gross, not the net—of the picture. Agee will receive \$7500 when he signs the contract and \$17,500 in the first day of principal photography, which has to be within a year.

Haskel Wexler has agreed to be the director of cinematography and De Antonio said that Jane Fonda has volunteered to be in it.

JOYCE ILLIG writes regularly on the publishing scene for Book World.

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